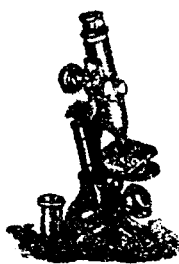


## Medical Matters.

### THE MIND AND ITS DISEASES AS SEEN BY THE NURSE.



Dr. Walter H. Kidder is writing a series of quite admirable articles on the above subject in the *Dietetic Gazette*. He says:—

“Such terms as insane, insanity, lunatic, lunacy, and crazy have fallen somewhat into disrepute, and the thoughtful nurse will endeavour to keep them out of her vocabulary. In this series of articles it has thus far been possible to avoid the use of such words, and hereafter they will not frequently recur. Years ago an insane person was looked upon as one to be avoided and a subject for custodial care, treatment and recovery being matters for secondary consideration. Institutions for persons so affected were known as ‘Lunatic Asylums’ or ‘Insane Asylums,’ and he who had once been an inmate of such a place was likely to afterwards be shunned, even though restored to normal mental balance. With increasing knowledge there was finally brought to such institutions the title of ‘Hospitals for the Insane,’ the idea of treatment being given dominance over that of simple custodial care. Now a further change is trying to force its way, and ‘Psychopathic Hospitals’ are coming into existence. These changes have come along with the general advance in medical science, and with the discovery that some forms of insanity are about as curable as is pneumonia or other somatic disease, and not greatly more liable to recur.

“Though plain speech is usually desirable, and it is well ‘to call a post a post,’ let the nurse from the start avoid the unnecessary use of old terms to which an odium attaches. She will soon learn to express herself in terms equally accurate and forceful and less obnoxious. Into whatever family she goes to care for an insane patient, the nurse will find other members of the family carrying a burden of grief greater than they would feel over any sickness which did not involve the

mind. She will find people who shrink from the idea of having insanity in the family, and she will do well to seek to lessen this dread.

“The disorders which are grouped under the general term insanity have been variously named and classified. One of the simplest groupings, and one which will at the start answer our purposes, is that which is in use in the statistical tables of the New York State Hospitals. With more or less modification it is widely used outside of New York State. It is as follows:

- “Mania, acute delirious.
- “Mania, acute.
- “Mania, recurrent.
- “Mania, chronic.
- “Melancholia, acute.
- “Melancholia, simple.
- “Melancholia, chronic.
- “Alternating (circular) insanity.
- “Paranoia.
- “General paralysis (parosis).
- “Dementia, primary.
- “Dementia, terminal.
- “Epilepsy with insanity.
- “Idiocy.”

### A RAPID CURE FOR LUMBAGO.

Dr. G. H. Kenyon describes in the *British Medical Journal* a method of treating lumbago which he has never known to fail. It consists in the local application of tartarated antimony. This is most easily effected by thoroughly rubbing into the painful part unguentum antimonii tartarati *B.P.*, twice a day until the pustules characteristic of antimony make their appearance. By this time the pain is greatly relieved if not quite gone, and the patient is practically well. Along with this local treatment it is advisable to administer a saline aperient mixture containing sodium salicylate. The number of applications of the ointment required depends greatly on the thoroughness with which it is rubbed in. If this is well done one or two applications are usually sufficient. It is prudent to warn the patient not to continue having the ointment rubbed in longer than necessary to relieve the pain, or after a fair crop of pustules have come out.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)